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AFRICAN ISSUES - THE SECRETARY'S TRIP TO CHINA

I. Southern Africa

Background

The development of our policies in southern Africa has reached a key juncture in the wake of South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha's May 14-15 visit to Washington and the May 21-22 Contact Group meeting here. We are faced with allied dissatisfaction over the contents of Botha's May 19 letter setting forth his government's bottom line on Namibia. It is likely that we will have to continue our bilateral dialogue with Pretoria a while longer and that that will involve a senior level trip to Pretoria in the near future.

Talking Points

-- WE REMAIN COMMITTED TO AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE SETTLEMENT IN NAMIBIA.

-- WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 435, WHILE A BASIS FOR A SETTLEMENT, NEEDS TO BE SUPPLEMENTED BY ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS, INCLUDING CONSTITUTIONAL MEASURES.

-- WE BELIEVE THAT PROGRESS TOWARD A NAMIBIA SETTLEMENT SHOULD ENGENDER PROGRESS IN ANGOLA INVOLVING THE PRESENCE OF CUBAN TROOPS AND NATIONAL RECONCILIATION.

II. Angola

Background

China does not have relations with Luanda, is undecided on resuming aid to Jonas Savimbi, but wants reductions in Cuban and Soviet influence and presence in Angola.

Talking Points

-- RECONCILIATION BETWEEN THE MPLA AND UNITA IS A NECESSARY PREREQUISITE FOR CUBAN WITHDRAWAL.

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-- MEANWHILE, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT SAVIMBI'S FRIENDS NOT ABANDON HIM.

-- HOW MIGHT WE BEST ENCOURAGE THIS RECONCILIATION PROCESS?

III. The Horn of Africa

Background

China's anti-Soviet views and policies in the Horn of Africa largely parallel and complement our own. China has Embassies and modest economic assistance programs in all five countries of the Horn, and also provides some military assistance to the Sudan and Somalia -- in the latter case, not for use against Somalia's neighbors. China's diplomats and ours have friendly relations and exchange information in all five countries.

Talking Point

-- WHAT CAN WE DO TO REDUCE THE SOVIET-CUBAN PRESENCE AND INFLUENCE IN ETHIOPIA?

IV. Zaire

Background

China's training of a brigade-size Zairian infantry unit complements French, Belgian, and US efforts to help this strategic country defend itself.

Talking Point

-- WE APPRECIATE YOUR EFFORTS TO ASSIST ZAIRE IN MODERNIZING ITS ARMED FORCES AND ENCOURAGE YOU TO SUSTAIN THIS IMPORTANT ACTIVITY.

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